

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A medical image is separated into an image body M1 and supplementary information M2 including patient privacy information. The supplementary information M2 is sent using a high security dedicated circuit 4 and the image body M1 is sent using a public circuit 3. Since the data volume of the supplementary information M2 is less than the data volume of the image body M1, communication costs for using the dedicated circuit 4 can be reduced compared to a case of sending and receiving a whole medical image.